town had to be put off from year to year. Many of the houses had no backyards and even the few that had backyards had no access to the adjoining streets. Consequently, sewage water, instead of flowing out, collected in pools and rendered the houses insanitary for about five months of the year from Dhanu onwards. It was during those months that cholera used to break out in the town and spread with disastrous results. The Member, therefore, requested that the Government might construct masonry drains in all the streets to allow a free flow of sewage water and have cess pools built to receive all the sewage water till it was removed later on.

Another crying need of the town was a copious supply of pure drinking water, the scarcity of which was felt for five months from Dhanu. The two streams and the wells would dry up, followed sometimes by the spread of epidemics. The Member, therefore, requested that more wells might be sunk for supplying drinking water and one tank for bathing purposes.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

97. Condition of the town of Kayankulam.

The Rev. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) made the following suggestions for the improvement of the Kayankulam town:—

1. that masonry drains be built on either side of the Kayankulam bazaar road to take away the rain water;

2. that a boat basin be provided at the bazaar landing;

3. that, as the market, which was held on a site taken on lease for Rs. 600 per annum, was a drain on the resources of the Committee, it should be either allowed to be held in the bazaar near the Iron Bridge and a deviation road constructed westwards from the fish market bridge, or the Government site applied for by the Committee and now leased on *kuthagapattam* should be handed over to the Committee for holding the market;

4. that the local dispensary should be converted into a hospital, as the number of patients was steadily on the increase; and

5. that the road from Kayankulam to Nangiarkulangara should be gravelled.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

98. Need for improved sanitation in the town of Alleppey.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Alleppey) thanked the Government for the timely and efficient arrangements made for the supply of kerosine oil to the *punja* cultivators and for relieving the food situation throughout the State.

Proceeding to his subject, he said that the sanitation of the town of Alleppey depended upon the efficient management of the Municipal institution, proper medical aid to the inhabitants, removal of some permanent nuisances and an abundant supply of pure water. In regard to the first point, *viz.*, efficient management of the Municipal institution, the Member suggested that the Vice-President should be invested with some powers in addition to those conferred upon him by the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation. He suggested that the work of the Committee might be divided under two heads, *viz.*, office work which should be left in the hands of the President ; and the out-door work which should be transferred to the Vice-President.

Dewan.—It is competent to the President to delegate any of his powers to the Vice-President. So far as the Government are concerned, they will have no objection to sanction any recommendation of the Committee in this respect, provided they are allowed by law.

The Member continued and said that, as regards medical aid, the local District Hospital was situated in the southwest corner of the town, while the eastern portion of the town was more thickly populated and growing in importance commercially and otherwise. The majority of the public institutions and private centres of

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work such as mills factories, &c., were also in that locality. There was formerly a dispensary near the Iron-Bridge which was serving a very useful purpose, but it was stopped. He, therefore, suggested that a dispensary might be opened near Mullakkal. There was also a long strip of Government land on the southern side of the Wadai canal, a portion of which could be used for putting up a building for the dispensary.

The Manure depot situated at one of the busiest parts of the town had become a public nuisance on account of the nasty stench emanating from the prawn skin stored there. It should be removed to the east to a distance of at least one furlong. The Darragh Market in the heart of the town was also a danger to public health, as fish and other articles had to be carried to the market through the crowded portions of the town. The Member solicited the help of Government for opening a market under the control of the T. I. C., a moiety of the funds required being provided by the people.

In conclusion, he drew the attention of Government to the unwholesome water used for drinking purposes by the people of the town and requested the appointment of a Committee to investigate the question of the supply of pure water to the town.

Dewan's reply.—Some of the matters contained in the Member's representation are covered by the new Municipal Bill. The other points are noted.

99. Suggestions for improving the finances of the Town Improvement Committee, Vaikom.

Mr. P. I. Joseph (Member, T. I. C., Vaikom) represented that the finances of the Committee were not in a satisfactory condition and that the balance of the Town Fund was decreasing every year. The people were already heavily burdened with house-tax, license fees, &c. At the same time the necessity of providing more lights, sinking new wells and doing many similar works of public utility had become pressing. Heavy expenditure had also to be incurred in keeping the premises of the local temple, which attracted a large number of pilgrims every day, in a sanitary condition. He, therefore, made the following suggestions with a view to improve the financial position of the Committee:—

1. The present annual grant of Rs. 500 from Government should be raised to Rs. 1,000.

2. The Sri Mulam Market should be improved by providing facilities for traffic from it to the interior parts of the taluk. It could be done by,

(*a*) connecting the Main Central Road with the Ettumanur-Vaikom road at Kaduthuruthy proper, due east of the Sri Mulam Market, by a cartable road; and

(*b*) by clearing and deepening the Chullithodu up to Kariyar and improving the other canals in the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Medical Relief.

100. Steps to be taken by Government for the improvement of public health.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Padmanabhapuram) explained the desirability of Government taking a deeper interest in the health of the student population in the State, and maintained that the number and quality of the text-books they had to study had a direct relation to their health. He suggested that the work of the students in the Junior Classes should be considerably lightened, especially in the Vernacular schools and that the attention of the Text-Book Committee should be drawn to that matter when they chose the text-books for each year.

He then stated that, though the expenditure of the Medical Department had of late years been steadily increasing, the number of persons treated did not show a proportionate increase, and he attributed it to the want of sympathy on the part of the staff of the department towards the public. He also urged that the

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